



ABSTRACT PRESENTATION

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**Worms in Pig Poops at the Main Abattoir in Karu,
Nasarawa State**

Keywords: roundworms, pig poops, Karu Nasarawa State

Gastro-intestinal parasites are a common limiting factor in pig keeping. Infected pigs are less thrifty with loss of appetite, poor weight gain due to low food conversion and increased susceptibility to disease. Roundworms in particular are well known hindrance to swine breeding because they cause irritation, impaction, indigestion and lack of appetite which negatively affect the feeding efficiency and growth rate of infected pigs. It is for this importance of swine parasites that samples of pig poops were screened for parasites at the Karu abattoir annex market for pigs. An average of 10 pigs was examined every week for twelve weeks. Sample was promptly collected from the top layer of fresh drop of pig poop at the early morning hours and subsequently examined by visual macroscopy, microscopy of fecal smear and later by stool concentration in saturated salt (NaCl) floatation fluid. An animal was considered as infected if at least one cyst, an egg or a whole worm or worm fragment was seen in the sample. The result shows that 73 (59.8%) of pigs were infected with species of protozoa, acanthocephalans and round worms. The worms infected more (59 or 48.4%) of animals and they were identified as species of Strongylid worms (67.8%), Ascarid worms (30.5%) and acanthocephalan worms (10.2%). Boar worm infection (53.4%) did not vary significantly ($P>0.05$) from that of the sows (46.6%) and the average epg range was 112.2 ± 165.5 . It was concluded that worm prevalence and intensity in this study were less than in other studies probably because pigs were brought into the market from different sources including domestic stock and farm animals which were somehow maintained with modern or traditional prophylactic drugs and / or local veterinary assistance. However, this result is significant because parasites seen were mainly strongylid worms identified as *Oesophagostomum* spp which are zoonotic and so constitute a source of infection to pig keepers. Infected sows are also known sources of infection of piglets indicating an important public health potential for disease out-break.

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